United Nations E/2007/NGO/7

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2007
English
Original: French

Substantive session of 2007
Geneva, 2-27 July 2007
Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Annual ministerial review: strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development

Statement submitted by *Droit à l'énergie*, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2007/100 and Corr.1.

07-36306 (E) 210607 210607

Statement

Development and growth are essential in order drastically to reduce poverty. This development will be made possible by generating macroeconomic activity in the regions concerned. A vital prerequisite for such development is to give these villages and regions access to energy.

And when we speak of energy, electricity seems to be the form of energy that has the most common denominators as regards factors of development, health, access to drinking water, refrigeration, light, environmental sanitation and telecommunications. It is therefore urgent to develop local and regional production facilities in order to make available to the public the energy services needed to raise living standards.

This ambition naturally requires the agreement of the governments and authorities of the countries or regions concerned.

However, our organization, *Droit à l'énergie*, believes that there is one essential prerequisite for the success of such an endeavour: civil society must be associated at the outset in any energy access project.

This is a guarantee of transparency, but above all it is an intelligent move to organize, with other organizations in the field, a real survey of the needs and resources of the population.

It involves the need to meet each family which will have a short-term energy supply, in order to discuss with it how this energy will enable it to improve its standard of living.

This exercise, organized with associations and NGOs, should persuade a family, a village or a region to embark on individual or collective activities, thus ensuring macroeconomic growth.

Droit à l'énergie considers this to be a very important stage in the development process and recommends that organizations dealing with microfinance, fair trade and solidarity agriculture should be involved in order to give families every chance of success and the means to change their lives and overcome poverty.

Droit à l'énergie believes that, while institutions and countries have an essential role to play in infrastructure financing, the public should normally pay for energy consumption. Of course, part of such consumption can be subsidized in the form of reduced rates for the poorest.

Finally, the arrival of electricity in a region, if accompanied by this development, is very often a way of reducing migrant flows. In time, these flows are even reversed: people who had migrated to the big cities or to other countries come back to live in their villages, attracted by the economic development prospects.

United Nations E/2007/NGO/8

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2007

Original: English

Substantive session of 2007
Geneva, 2-27 June 2007
Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Thematic discussion: strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macroeconomic policies

Statement submitted by Foundation for Research on Technology Migration and Integration, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2007/100 and Corr.1.

07-36652 (E) 200607

Statement

In support of the 2007 theme of the HLS for ECOSOC, "Strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macroeconomic policies", the Foundation for Research on Technology Migration and Integration would like to emphasize once again the importance and the role of governance- especially good governance and the strength of human capital in supporting pro-poor sustained economic growth.

Since the adoption of the recommendation of " One Dollar for Development" at a meeting of non-G8 member states at FAO in Rome in 2004, the foundation has led many advocacy efforts, including a presentation on 22 June 2006 of Formit Foundation, through its subsidiary Formit Servizi, before an Informal Interactive Hearing of the General Assembly. The Hearings, a review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, were intended to serve as a forum for NGOs, civil society, and the private sector to express their respective views on sustainable development and on best practices in the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The Formit Foundation drew attention to the substantial prospective value ICTs can have in improving governance and reducing poverty in the LDCs. Specifically the Foundation highlighted the initiative One Dollar for Development, which seeks donations from developed countries of e-government technologies already in use, and whose implementation would obviate the need for LDCs to invest the significant funds that would be required to develop and deploy their own e-government applications.

The Formit Foundation exhorted the LDCs to create an enabling environment for such applications, and the United Nations to play an active role in facilitating the technology transfer.

Below are two paragraphs from the Outcome Document A/61/162 of the Informal Interactive General Assembly Hearings, which summarize The Formit Foundation's recommendations and speak to their importance.

Paragraph 34: The importance of information and communication technology (ICT) to the achievement of the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme was underlined by various participants. It was stressed that ICT can be used to promote democratic governance and poverty reduction.

Paragraph 35: To benefit fully from ICT, the least developed countries need software applications, particularly in the area of e-governance. Donors, both public and private, were called upon to assist the least developed countries in making this software available, as financial resources remain inadequate. Recommendations were made for:

(a) donor countries to offer free e-governance software investments in the least developed countries and encourage software-reuse at the national level, as well as open source technologies and multi-language software interfaces in their ICT development;

(b) the least developed countries to create an enabling environment to facilitate transfer of knowledge and ensure compatibility and sustainability with regard to infrastructure, local industries and human capital; and

(c) the United Nations to play a central role in the creation of an ICT framework.